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REMARKS

Applicant has considered the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance as set forth below. The present amendment is to supercede the amendment filed December 16, 2003 which has not been entered by the Examiner.

Claims 99 and 100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the language in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion as set forth in the outstanding action. The additional language added to claim 99 not present in the non-entered amendment filed December 16, 2003 is for clarifying the language only as suggested by the Examiner and not based on prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 68, 82, 94, 99 and 100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claim 94 has been canceled since it was a duplicate of allowed claim 98. The additional language in claim 68 not present in the non-entered amendment filed December 16, 2003 is for clarifying the language only as suggested by the Examiner and not based on

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prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 92, 93 and 95-98 are stated to be allowed.

Claims 55, 56/55, 58/55, 59-61, and 72/56 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant has amended these claims to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Claim 55 has been placed in independent form. Claim 56 has been amended to be dependent only on claim 55. Claim 58 is now dependent only on claim 55. Claim 59 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 60 is now dependent on claim 59. Claim 68 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 72 is dependent on claim 56. As such, claims 55, 56, 58, 59-61 and 72 are now in condition for allowance. Formal allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 68, 82, 94, 99 and 100 are stated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the §112 rejections. As set forth above, the claims have been amended to overcome the §112 rejections. Formal allowance is requested.

The outstanding rejections based on art are as follows:

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- (1) Claims 50, 51, 54, 56/54, 63, 64, 67, 70, 71, 72/54, 78, 79, 84, 89, 90 and 91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,672,950 (Murphy);
- (2) Claims 58, 73 and 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,173,351 (Ruppel) and/or WO 97/44528 (Barnholtz);
- (3) Claims 62, 69, 77, 80-81, 86 and 87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,867,225 (Nystrand); and
- (4) Claim 88 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Murphy in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,694,300 (Small) and/or Barnholtz.


All the pending claims rejected over prior art have been canceled to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the canceled subject matter in a continuation application.

Reconsideration and formal allowance of all the claims are respectfully urged.

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